

# PAROCHIAL QUERIES

In Order to

A Geographical Dictionary, A Natural History, &c. of *Wales*.

By the Undertaker *E. L.*



**H**AVING Publish'd some Proposals towards a Survey of *Wales*, and met with sufficient Encouragement from the Gentry of that Country, and several others, Lovers of such Studies; to enable me (with God's Permission) to Undertake it: I thought it necessary for the easier and more effectual Performance of so tedious a Task, to Print the following *Queries*; having good Grounds to hope the Gentry and Clergy (since they are pleas'd to afford me so Generous an Allowance towards it) will also readily contribute their Assistance, as to Information; and the Use of their Manuscripts, Coins, and other Monuments of Antiquity: The Design being so extraordinary difficult without such Helps, and so easily improvable thereby. Nor would I have any imagine, that by Publishing these *Queries*, I design to spare my self the least Labour of Travelling the Country, but on the contrary be assur'd, I shall either come my self, or send one of my Assistants into each Parish throughout *Wales*, and all those in *Shropshire* and *Herefordshire*, where the Language and the Ancient Names of Places are still retain'd: And that with all the Speed, so particular a Survey will admit of. My Request therefore to such as are desirous of Promoting the Work, is, That after each *Query*, they would please to write on the blank Paper, (or elsewhere if room be wanting) their Reports; confining themselves, unless the Subject shall require otherwise, to that Parish only where they inhabit; and distinguishing always betwixt Matter of Fact, Conjecture, and Tradition. Nor will any, I hope, omit such Informations as shall occur to their Thoughts, upon Presumption, they can be of little use to the Undertaker, or the Publick, or because they have not leisure to write down their Observations so regularly as they desire: Seeing that what we sometimes judge insignificant, may afterwards upon some Application unthought of, appear very useful; and that a regular and compleat Account of Things is not here so much expected, as short Memorials, and some Directions in order to a further Enquiry.

## *Queries in order to the Geography, and Antiquities of the Country.*

**I** First therefore Information is desired of the Name of the Parish; both according to the Modern Pronunciation and the Oldest Records, (which would be also very convenient as to all other Places whatever) and whence 'tis thought to be deriv'd. Also whether a *Market-Town*, *Town-Corporate*, or *Village*.

III. An Enumeration and brief Description of the *Towns*, *Villages*, *Hamlets*, *Castles*, *Forts*, *Monasteries*, *Chappels of Ease*, *Free-Schools*, *Hospitals*, *Bridges*, and all *Publick Buildings* whatever within the Parish, whether *Ruinous* or *Entire*; or whose Names only are preserv'd: When, and by whom Founded, Endow'd or Repair'd?

IV. *Sanctuaries* or Places of Refuge; Places memorable for *Battels*, *Births*, or *Interment* of *Great Persons*, *Parliaments*, *Councils*, *Synods*, &c.

V. Seats of the Gentry; with the Names and Quality of the present Proprietors, and their Arms and Descem.

II. In what *Comot* or *Hundred Situate*? How *Bounded*? Of what *Extent*, and what Number of *Houses* and *Inhabitants*? To what *Saint* is the Church dedicated, and whether a *Parsonage*, *Vicarage*, or both?

VI. A Catalogue of the *Barrows*, or those Artificial Mounts distinguish'd by the several Names of *Krigeu, Gorfedben, Tommenydb, Beili*, &c. as also of the *Camps*, and all old *Entrenchments* whatever.

VII. Roman *Ways, Pavements, Stoves*, or any Under-ground Works: *Crosses, Beacons, Stones* pitch'd an end in a regular Order; such as *Meini-birion* in *Caernarvonshire*, *Karn Lbechart* in *Glamorgan*, and *Buarth Arthur* in the County of *Caermarddin*: As also all those rude Stone-Monuments distinguish'd by the several Names of *Bêdb, Gwely, Karnedb, Kromlech, Lbêch yr âst, Lbêch y Gowres, Lbêch y Wydhan, Koeren Arthur, Kist vaen, Presyb y Pwarch Preth*, &c.

VIII. The Old *Inscriptions* in the Parish, whether in the Church, or elsewhere; a Collection of all being intended to the Time of King Henry the Eighth.

IX. Old *Arms, Urns, Lamps, Paterae, Fibulae*, or any other Utensils; where, and when discover'd?

X. *Coyns, Amulets, Chains, Bracelets, Rings, Seals*, &c. where, and when found; and in whose Possession at present?

XI. *Manuscripts*: Of what Subject and Language; In whose Hands; Whether Ancient or Late Copies?

XII. The Names of the most Remarkable *Mountains, Rocks, Parks, Woods, Commons, Warrens*, &c. together with such Names of any other Places not comprehended under these *Queries*, as seem so obscure as to be scarce, if at all Intelligible; with brief Descriptions of them, and Conjectures of their Signification.

XIII. The Names of all the *Rivers and Rivulets* in the Parish; distinguishing always betwixt those that rise, or are discharged in it, and such as pass through it, or constitute its Bounds; together with their Remarkable *Cataracts*, or Waterfalls, where they afford any.

XIV. Names of the *Lakes* and Remarkable *Springs*; and whether any thing be Noted of them, extraordinary.

XV. The *Customs*, and peculiar *Games and Feasts* amongst the Vulgar in the Parish, Hundred, County, or any Part of *Wales*: Together with the *Vulgar Errors and Traditions*; parallel with those treated of by the Learned and Judicious Author of *Pseudodoxia Epidemica*.

XVI. What *Words, Phrases*, or Variation of *Dialect* in the *Welsh*, seems peculiar to any Part of the Country? What *Names* of Men and Women uncommon? And wherein doth the *English* of the Vulgar, in *Pembrokeshire* and *Gowerland*, differ from that in the Western Counties, &c. of *England*?

## Queries toward the Natural History.

XVII. Whether the Parish be generally *Corn-Ground* or *Pasture*? Colour of the *Soil*? Very *Fertile*, *Barren* or *Indifferent*? *Mountains* or *Champion Ground*? *Woody*, *Heathy*, *Rocky*, *Clay-Ground*, *Sandy*, *Gravelly*, &c?

XVIII. The Sorts of *Grain* Sown in the Parish, and the Composts used; with any Useful Observations in Husbandry; and a Computation of the Number of *Cattel* and *Horses* it breeds; as also of the *Sheep*, *Goats*, *Hogs*, &c.

XIX. Of the State of *Health*: Whether the Parish, Hundred or Comot be subject to any *Peculiar Diseases*? What Number of *Ancient Men* and *Women*; with their Years? Whether they seem to differ at all in their *Diet* from those that live elsewhere; and what Effects as to Health and Sickness, are ascrib'd to the *Air* of the Place?

XX. Observations on the *Stature* and *Complexion* of the Inhabitants in general; with such Exceptions as occur. Instances of the *Strength* or *Activity* of particular Men well Attested, with all the Circumstances requisite. *Antipathies* of some Persons to several Sorts of *Meat*, *Drink*, &c.

XXI. Observations relating to *Cattel*, *Horses*, *Sheep*, or other Animals; as to their general *Magnitude*, *Shape*, *Colours*, good or bad Qualities: The *Diseases* they are subject to, whether owing to *Contagion*, or the *Unwholsomeness* of their *Pasture* or *Water*? Also what Inconveniences they are liable to, the several Seasons of the Year, at *Snowdon*, *Cader Idris*, *Plyn Lhymmon*, and the other High Mountains.

XXII. A Register of the *Weather*, for the Space of One Year at least, kept by one or two in each County, would be of considerable Use: With Observations on the *Figures of Snow* and *Hail*: The Time it generally begins to *Snow* on our highest Mountains, and when it desists; with any other Curious Remarks about *Meteors*.

XXIII. Observations concerning *Tides*, *Eddies*, and *Whirl-Pools*; *Form* and *Consistence* of the *Shoar* or *Maritim Land*, and the Influence the *Sea* has upon it. What Tokens of *Woods* or *Buildings* gain'd by the *Sea*? Particularly whether *Kaer Ambod*, *Sarn Badric*, and *Sarn y Bwch* (in North Wales) be presum'd to be Artificial or Natural; And if the former, what Evidence there is for it?

XXIV. An Account of the *Subterraneous* and *Diving Rivers*; and of such as are totally *absorb'd*, or no where distinguishable afterwards; also of *Sudden Eruptions of Water*, and *Periodical Streams*. A Computation of the Number of *Springs* in the Parish. How near the Tops of Hills are the highest *Running Springs*? Or are there any in very even Plains remote from Hills? Any *Fountains* that *ebb* and *flow*? *Waters* that petrify or incrustate *Wood*, *Moss*, *Leaves*, &c. *Medicinal Springs*, or *Waters* of unusual Taste, Smell, or Colour, or Remarkable for their Weight, or tinging the Stone or Earth whence they proceed?

XXV. Particular Information of all Places where there are any *Caves*, *Mines*, *Coal-works*, *Quarries*, *Stone-Pits*, *Marl-Pits*; or in short, where Labourers dig upon any Occasion whatever.



XXVI. If such Places afford any uncommon *Ours, Earths, or other Minerals; Stones resembling Sea-Shells, Teeth, or other Bones of Fish; or Crabs-Claws, Corals, and Leaves of Plants; or in brief, any Stones, or other Bodies whatever of a Remarkable Figure; the Workmen are desired to preserve them, till they are call'd for by the Undertaker, or some of his Friends; in Consideration whereof, they shall receive some Reward suitable to their Care and Pains.*

XXVII. Such as have made the History of *Plants*, any part of their Diverſion, are desired to communicate dried Specimens of those sorts they esteem Rareſt, or that are unknown to them; or to give Directions where they may be met with: Also what Observations they have made by often repeated Experiments, concerning the *Healing, or Noxious Qualities of Plants.*

XXVIII. Whether any have been Curious in observing the various sorts of *Sea-Shells, Sea-Eggs, Sea-Spiders; Starres, Batrons, Sponges; Urice, Te-shye, Hotohuria, &c.* Or have made any Remarks extraordinary on *Land-Insects?*

Having thus propounded what *Queries* occur to my Thoughts; nothing remains, but that I own to the Publick, that in case this Paper meets with a kind Reception (as from this last Summer's Travels, I have great Hopes it may) if the Undertaking be ill perform'd, 'twill be wholly my own Fault; the Gentry of the Country having in all Respects done more than their Part, and afforded such an Encouragement towards it, as might sufficiently requite the Labours of a Person far better Qualified for such a *Design*: But of this, a particular Account (as is necessary) shall be given hereafter. So I shall only add here; that as to these *Queries*, besides *Wales*, I intreat the favourable Assistance of the Gentry and Clergy in those other Countries mention'd in the former Proposals: And that in all Places, they who are dispos'd to further the Design, would please to communicate this Paper where they think fit, amongst their Neighbours; interpreting some *Queries* to those of the Vulgar, whom they judge Men of Veracity, and capable of giving any the least Information towards it, that may be pertinent and instructive.

We judge Mr. Lloyd Qualified for this Undertaking; and that he cannot want proper Materials towards it, if (as an Addition to his own Industry) he receives such Answers to these Queries, as can be conveniently return'd from each Parish.

JOHN WALLIS.

EDWARD BERNARD.

MARTIN LISTER.

JOHN RAY.

## A D V E R T I S E M E N T.

The Subscribers may please to pay the Money, the time specified in the Proposals, to any of my Coreſpondents in their Neighbourhood; who are desired to return it either to Mr. Williams at the Museum in Oxford, or to Mr. Walter Thomas of Barnard-street, London; who will also safely convey to my Hands any Letters, Papers, or Manuscripts they receive on this Occasion.

XXIX. Information is desired from those who have been most conversant in Fishing; what sorts of Fish their Waters afford, and of these which are the Rareſt, or haunt those Places most Seldom? What Variety of Colours and Shape they have observ'd in the same Species? What Baits used for each, and when in Season? What sorts are Solitary, and which keep together in Shoals? What they have observ'd as to their Feeding, Spawning, and Change of Names according to Age; and by what Tokens they know such, to be the same Species? Also the *Jaws*, and some of the *Vertebrae* of the Rareſt (for which some Gratuity shall be allow'd the Fishermen) are desired; in order to compare them with the *Fossil Bones* above-mention'd.

XXX. By what is proposed of *Insects and Fish*; the Reader will judge what sort of Information will be acceptable, relating to *Birds and Quadrupeds.*

XXXI. Who in each Country is best skill'd in the *Welsh Names of Birds, Fish, Insects, Plants, Stones; or any other Natural Bodies?*